

# WEEKLY

# RECORD.

Devoted to the Mining, Lumbering, Milling,

and General Interests of Lake of the Woods.

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## "The Weekly Record"

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LAMAR WEIDMAN, Proprietor.

### A TOWN PARK.

Would it not be a good move now for Rat Portage to make an effort to secure a good public park, seeing that the Ontario Government seem to be in a position to deal with all the lands in the vicinity, since the settlement arrived at between them and the Keewatin Lumber Co.? Thanks to his generosity and public spiritedness, the late E. M. Atwood, in the survey of his estate north of the H. R. Co. Reserve, laid out a park, which was ultimately confirmed by the Government, and is now the property of the municipality. A portion of this has been reserved for a burial place, and more of it will be required in that connection. In fact, Union Park in time will not be more than sufficient for a respectable cemetery. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that steps should be taken at the earliest possible date to secure sufficient land suitable for a public park. All that portion of Tunnel Island south of the railway has been suggested, and it would indeed be an excellent location. The Record is of the opinion, however, that a portion of Coney Island would be preferable. Without prejudicing any person having claims thereon, it is believed should be fully compensated, so as to give the north and south lands included in a large park, and granted to the municipality for public purposes. Would it not be well to move now in this matter? The Commissioner of Crown Lands and another member of the Government are at present in the district, and could easily be interviewed by deputations from the Municipal Council and Board of Trade, and some decision arrived at before the lands available for such a purpose are all disposed of. If this matter is not now attended to, the town may some day have to pay dearly for what might at this time be secured at comparatively little expense. That the Council and the Board of Trade will take this matter up promptly and secure an interview with Hon. A. S. Hardy, on his return from Rainy River.

About three years ago a petition was signed by nearly every body in town praying that the Government grant Mr. Wm. McCarthy Coney Island. At that time Mr. McCarthy generously made a proposition to the municipal council offering a portion of it for a town park. The petition is still with the Government. Mr. McCarthy's claim holds good, and he also stands the same. Under these circumstances it is the duty of the town to embrace the present opportunity and urge a speedy disposal of Coney Island. Here is a work for the Council and the Board of Trade the accomplishment of which will be a lasting benefit to the whole community.

Our Cross Lake correspondent was in error last week in reference to the close season in Manitoba for muskrats. The game law of Manitoba was changed at the last session of the provincial legislature and the close season extended from the first of August to the first of September, which is no doubt to the advantage of the ducks at Cross Lake and really better for the muskrats.

## THE MATTER SETTLEMENT.

It is not without hesitation that we approach this question, lest our motives will not be appreciated, and what we may say may be regarded as being written in a capricious party spirit. We deem it necessary, however, in the general interests of this district, that public sentiment shall be voiced in reference to the reported terms of settlement of the lease of the islands in the Lake of the Woods to the Keewatin Lumber Co. The terms of the lease in the first place were indefensible from a public point of view, and have been the cause of much discussion. Doubtless some of the conditions which have been interpreted to the injury of individual rights were secured from the Government without their being properly understood. There has been much condemnation of the Keewatin Lumber Co. for their insistent exercise of the full rights given them by the lease. It was simply a case of harking up the wrong tree. They had obtained the lease it must be assumed without fraud, for such has never been charged against them, and as a matter of business they had the right of making the best bargain they could. The blame belonged to the Government of the day for giving a timber lease with almost exclusive proprietary rights. It is true there has been much harking up on account of the Co. concerning their full rights to the very letter, but it is nothing more than human nature to do as they did. The leading spirits of the company were far-sighted enough to know that the more firmly they held to the conditions of their lease, the better case they could make in any negotiations for cancelling it. That they have made an exceedingly strong case appears evident from what we said to be the terms they have secured from the Ontario Government. Besides other compensation the Keewatin Lumber Co. appear to have secured the proprietary right to the whole of Tunnel Island on condition of spending \$100,000 in developing its water power in three years, and the ownership of one acre of land to every house they have erected on the islands in the vicinity of Keewatin and on Coney Island, including the whole of Sandy beach, our great bathing ground. Nothing has been heard of compensating those who have just claims to portions of Tunnel Island and Coney Island, and the inference is that they will be ignored. It is said the Co. had the prior claim to Tunnel Island, as it was first selected by them for their mill site. But then they could give them no equitable or other right, as they went elsewhere and located, and the land was generally supposed to belong to the Government, who allowed individuals to survey and apply for locations on Tunnel Island and entertained the same, at least no other inference could be drawn from the fact that they gave no notice of refusal of applications. Under the circumstances, there are those who have reason to feel aggrieved at the apparent ignoring of their claims. There are also those

who think that if the water power of Tunnel Island be properly developed it would be the best thing that could happen to the interest of the community. Certainly there is no doubt that the full utilization of that water power, which is estimated could be developed up to fifty thousand horse power, would be the means of drawing manufactures here which would support a large population. That such a state of things is desirable is beyond question. As far as Tunnel Island is concerned if the Government have given it to the Keewatin Lumber Co. and the conditions imposed are carried out and all proper claims respected and satisfied, we say without hesitation that it is a grand thing for the town. With reference to the other concessions in respect to the islands near here, they are certainly objectionable. No company any more than an individual should be recognized as having the right to acquire twenty-five or more different places at the same time. Still this was made possible by the original proprietary conditions of the lease, and hence a different matter to deal with, no doubt. This Record will not knowingly, in any way, deprive the rights of any, and we will not take part in any line and cry against the Keewatin Lumber Co., but we do think the Government should have exercised greater care than they appear to have done in respect to Coney Island. It is said Sandy beach has been given to the Co. We hope this is not true, and that it still remains Government property, and that it may be secured by the municipality as a park after fully compensating any claims there may be against it. In this article we have endeavored to deal dispassionately with the subject in reference to what are said to be the conditions of the settlement which affect us locally. Up to the present time the full conditions have not been made public in any authorized manner, and it remains to be seen whether the Government has really made a just and equitable bargain as a whole.

A copy of the price list and program of attractions of the Winnipeg industrial exhibition has been received at THE RECORD'S office. The time fixed is Sept. 28th to Oct. 20, and the list shows \$14,500 in prizes. No doubt the exhibition this year will be the most extensive and best show of the products of Western Canada ever held, as the general farm products this season give promise of greater quantity and better quality than any previous year.

On Saturday last, by a majority of 143, North Brandon selected Mr. Clifford Sifton, who was appointed Attorney General of Manitoba some months ago. Mr. Sifton personally is a very estimable gentleman and an able man, his personal faults being extreme parsimony, while his opponents could not compare with him in qualities of head and heart. The Conservative opposition had nominated Mr. O. Giffa of the Brandon Mail, and although they worked hard, found him too heavy a weight to carry. Those who nominate candidates of the character and calibre of Clifford deserve to be defeated.

## SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN RE-SIGNS.

The news comes from Ottawa that Sir Hector Langevin has placed his resignation as a member of the Government in the hands of Premier Abbott. The Ottawa Citizen made public the resignation on Tuesday morning. There was great excitement at the unexpected news. The following is taken from the telegraphic news from Ottawa: "The privileges and elections committee was jammed with urgent matters in view of Sir Hector's appearance. At 10:30 a. m. the committee met. It was called to the order, and the heat was most oppressive. It was with great difficulty the members found seats. As soon as the proceedings opened Sir Hector, who was the cynosure of all eyes, rose and demanded to be heard. He then drew from his pocket a lengthy written statement which he proceeded to read. It stated at the outset that when the first came up no definite charge was made against him by Tarte, but since it proceeded him and insinuations and direct charges had been made which injured his character, and that he had been made in the House of Commons the would have followed the Royal precedent and resigned from the government, but as it was he had tendered his resignation to the first minister, that the government and parliament might be left to deal with his case as they might think best. It then launched into a general review of the evidence adduced against him. He had no knowledge that the Messrs. McGreevey were connected with the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. at any time, but he had a deep respect for the Messrs. Gallagher, Peters, G. Moore and Larkin, Connolly & Co. He read a letter from Gallagher stating that he had in the meantime taken another contract, Penzance, and that Larkin, Connolly & Co. had the latter firm stated that they would stick by their offer. He (Sir Hector) knew nothing of the manipulation of the tender nor of any collusion between the tenders; nor did he ever suspect Percy, who was his chief antagonist in matters of that kind. He was not in the least influenced by the \$1,000 subscribed by Larkin, Connolly & Co. to the Langevin testimonial fund. He read similar statements with regard to the Equilibrium dock and the dredging in Quebec harbor. As to the south wall he said he had no influence in the harbor commission. He never knew that the McGreeveys were interested in this work and never talked to Murphy about it. Referring again to the Equilibrium dock he said that Mr. Percy had been the superintendent of the work. He said the work was opened March 4th, 1884, and a few days afterwards two of the tenders wrote they had made important errors and in September new tenders were called and Murray & O'Hanley were the lowest bid. The chief inspector said they tender was too low and they were accordingly asked to increase their deposit. This they refused and withdrew their tender. An order was then issued authorizing the acceptance of the tender of Larkin, Connolly & Co. Sir Hector then quoted extensively the statistics given by the engineer in his report on this work. In the fall of 1885 Mr. Percy visited Esquimaux and advised the department that an additional \$26,000 would be necessary to complete the work. Sir Hector assented to the charge on condition that no additional price be given to the contractors. With regard to the plant taken over by the contractors, the minister said that he had received a commission of inquiry from the department. He reminded the committee, however, that with \$50,000 before a year coming to his department it was impossible to be cognizant of what took place. With regard to McGreevey's letters to Robert Giffa, he said that he had seen no such letters, and that he had frequent interviews with him (Hector) about the contract. Sir Hector declared that the only part he had in this was that of a friend. "Thomas McGreevey was mistaken when he said that he had been asked to give another subsidy for the aid of the Dule Des Oubiers railway. Sir Hector avers that Murphy never gave him a cent of money, nor gave any

answer to Murphy's statement that he offered 85 per cent. of the profits of the Equilibrium dock, he denied it positively. He also avers that he never got the \$5,000 for the "Three Rivers" at the Equilibrium dock. He avers that Yalm denied having anything to do with Mr. Tarte's charges in La Cadenne. He therefore got together a letter to that effect. They, James McGreevey, McGeehan, and Sir Hector read it to the other members and stated that Tarte did not understand him (Yalm), but that he told Tarte that he had nothing to say against Sir Hector, nor that he (Yalm) wished to run his Monte Moreau at the Equilibrium dock. Sir Hector avers that he never promised him a subsidy, nor that he intended to take Sir A. P. Caron's place at that appointment. He avers that he did not know anything of the names of subscribers to the Langevin fund. He said that he never recommended any of the work. He said that he had been made in the House of Commons the would have followed the Royal precedent and resigned from the government, but as it was he had tendered his resignation to the first minister, that the government and parliament might be left to deal with his case as they might think best. It then launched into a general review of the evidence adduced against him. He had no knowledge that the Messrs. McGreevey were connected with the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. at any time, but he had a deep respect for the Messrs. Gallagher, Peters, G. Moore and Larkin, Connolly & Co. He read a letter from Gallagher stating that he had in the meantime taken another contract, Penzance, and that Larkin, Connolly & Co. had the latter firm stated that they would stick by their offer. He (Sir Hector) knew nothing of the manipulation of the tender nor of any collusion between the tenders; nor did he ever suspect Percy, who was his chief antagonist in matters of that kind. He was not in the least influenced by the \$1,000 subscribed by Larkin, Connolly & Co. to the Langevin testimonial fund. He read similar statements with regard to the Equilibrium dock and the dredging in Quebec harbor. As to the south wall he said he had no influence in the harbor commission. He never knew that the McGreeveys were interested in this work and never talked to Murphy about it. Referring again to the Equilibrium dock he said that Mr. Percy had been the superintendent of the work. He said the work was opened March 4th, 1884, and a few days afterwards two of the tenders wrote they had made important errors and in September new tenders were called and Murray & O'Hanley were the lowest bid. The chief inspector said they tender was too low and they were accordingly asked to increase their deposit. This they refused and withdrew their tender. An order was then issued authorizing the acceptance of the tender of Larkin, Connolly & Co. Sir Hector then quoted extensively the statistics given by the engineer in his report on this work. In the fall of 1885 Mr. Percy visited Esquimaux and advised the department that an additional \$26,000 would be necessary to complete the work. Sir Hector assented to the charge on condition that no additional price be given to the contractors. With regard to the plant taken over by the contractors, the minister said that he had received a commission of inquiry from the department. He reminded the committee, however, that with \$50,000 before a year coming to his department it was impossible to be cognizant of what took place. With regard to McGreevey's letters to Robert Giffa, he said that he had seen no such letters, and that he had frequent interviews with him (Hector) about the contract. Sir Hector declared that the only part he had in this was that of a friend. "Thomas McGreevey was mistaken when he said that he had been asked to give another subsidy for the aid of the Dule Des Oubiers railway. Sir Hector avers that Murphy never gave him a cent of money, nor gave any

## As Others See Us.

We have just received the initial copy of the Weekly Record published at Rat Portage by Mr. James Weidman, the original proprietor of the Progress. The Record is spicy, powerful, and in every respect a credit to the proprietor, and we hope it will receive liberal support from the business men of the district. As will be seen by the title, the Record is a paper of entirely devoted to the varied interests of the three towns—Rat Portage, Keewatin, and Nechemia. Mr. Weidman, in his anonymous comment to the public, expresses no uncertainty in his preference for the general policy of the Conservative party, but with characteristic independence promises not to be bound by blind partyism. We wish this Record unlimited prosperity. Qu'Appelle, N.W.T. Progress.

Mr. J. Weidman, formerly editor and proprietor of the Qu'Appelle Progress, has handed out with a new weekly paper at Rat Portage called the Record. Mr. Weidman is a live and experienced newspaper man, and he does not enter upon an untried path. The first periodical published in this place, the International Royal Templar, Hamilton, Ont.

The Weekly Record, a journal devoted to the interests of Rat Portage, Keewatin and Nechemia, appears next month. It is neatly printed and beautiful of form and distinctness. It contains all the news of the three towns. The Weekly Record, published by James Weidman, Rat Portage, is a paper of quality and interest. It is a paper of quality and interest. It is a paper of quality and interest.







THE RECORD desires to fill these columns with Norman matters the citizens can help us do it.

—It is stated that the Imperial Government is anxious to unite the West Indies to Canada by closer trade relations.

as warmly defended. Clarke said if Parliament decided to provide better safeguards against fire, his company was prepared to bear any portion of the expense determined by any independent tribunal. Bowell said the Government would consider the whole question. Another speaker

AND CONVEYANCER.

HUDSON'S BAY CO.

South End Main Street, Kat Portage

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